

SECRET

2 March 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR : Chief, SR/3
FROM : SR/3/W2B
SUBJECT : Contact with AECAMHISTA 4 and 16

1. In accordance with the contact arranged one week earlier, the undersigned case officer met with AECAMHISTA 4 on 16 February 1954 to discuss the issues brought up at previous contact and to meet [] The meeting was effected at the Hotel Gov. Clinton in New York at 12:00 noon, while the introduction to [] was made at 1220 hours.

2. The preliminary discussion with AECAMHISTA 4 was rather discouraging. AECAMHISTA 4 was informed by the case officer that his request for a \$1,000 advance could not be gratified at this time. It was explained to him that administrative problems and budgetary considerations made the request impossible. Of course, AECAMHISTA 4 was not pleased with the decision but did not renew his request, although he did note once during the ensuing conference "What is \$1,000 to the American Government?" AECAMHISTA 4 produced a book entitled IV ZABOLOT'E SVETIAET' by YANKA BRIL' translated from Byelorussian into Russian by V. TARSISA in Moscow 1947. According to AECAMHISTA 4 this book dealt with the underground in Byelorussia and gave many names. These names he asserted undoubtedly would be known to AECAMHISTA 2 because the action was centered in the area where AECAMHISTA 2 grew up. AECAMHISTA 4 then added that some of the individuals mentioned in the book were in the West and might be of interest to us. The undersigned agreed to the logic, but noted that this was not of immediate concern.

3. At 1220 hours AECAMHISTA 4 and the undersigned case officer met [] in the lobby of the hotel. We immediately went to the room occupied by the undersigned and a discussion to establish a friendly air was encouraged. The initial discussion took place in Russian. However, in an effort to determine the effectiveness of [] comprehension of the English language, the discussion was continued in English. AECAMHISTA 4 in the meantime, who professed an ignorance of the English language, excused himself and began reading the book mentioned in paragraph 2. At the 9 February 1954 meeting AECAMHISTA 4 had stated that perhaps it would be better if AECAMHISTA 4 introduced [] to the case officer and then left. However, AECAMHISTA 4 did not leave and the discussion with [] was rather restrained in that the undersigned case officer does not know the extent of AECAMHISTA 4's comprehension of English.

4. The conversation with [] centered around his career during World War 2 under the German occupation, his political inclination and background, motivation and other topics which would aid in the completion of PRQ 2.

5. Although the matter of the study appeared constantly, [] was told that the purpose of this conference was not to make plans or commitments re: the study, but merely to discuss its broad concept. No specific aspects of

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the study were discussed. [] noted that he was aware of the undersigned officer's position and that he [] would not interpret the discussion as conclusive or obligatory.

6. Originally, [] had estimated that the study would take about two years. It would be a chronological work covering the history of Byelorussia from the 12th century to the present time. The undersigned informed [] that although such an approach would be most satisfactory for a scholarly work, our immediate needs precluded this method. It was suggested that the reverse approach be taken i.e. from present day Byelorussia back through the centuries. [] agreed that perhaps this would be better.

7. On the matter of cover, the undersigned intimated to [] that once he obtains his New York State license, he should not abandon his medical practice. It was noted that the sudden severance of his medical pursuits may promote unnecessary comments regarding his status and income. [] agreed and added that he was known to Byelorussian émigrés as a doctor, since he practiced in Europe and is currently serving his residency at Fordham Hospital.

From an Agency point of view, this arrangement is not only satisfactory from the cover aspect, but also from the financial. By having [] continue his medical pursuits, his income would merely be augmented by our arrangement and not, as previously outlined, be his primary source of income. Therefore, the amount of his salary would be kept at a minimum. [] noted that the cover arrangement would prolong his study effort beyond the two year period he had given initially. This point was conceded by the undersigned, but it should not impair the quality of the work or the usefulness of the material since the study will be initiated with the contemporary period.

8. [] was told not to expect all arrangements to be settled immediately. He acknowledged this fact. At this point in the meeting the language reverted to Russian and Ukrainian to include AECAMHISTA 4, who had not uttered a word in two hours. AECAMHISTA 4 was generally briefed on our discussion and he requested that the undersigned case officer attempt to hasten initiation of the study, if possible. He then stated that he would be in Washington in about two weeks and would call the undersigned. The meeting terminated approximately at 1530 hours.

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